

Colorado Teacher's Quality Standards

Observable Practices

Standard 3 – Facilitate Learning

Element a:

THE TEACHER:

- Differentiates instruction.
- Modifies content to assure that students are able to work at their ability levels.
- Builds on the interrelatedness of students' intellectual, social, and emotional development.
- Applies knowledge of current developmental science to address student needs.

STUDENTS:

- Seek materials and resources appropriate for their personal approach to learning.
- Seek to understand: How they learn best. Where their time and efforts are best used.

Element b:

THE TEACHER:

- Has explicit student outcomes in mind for each lesson.
- Aligns instruction with academic standards and student assessment results.
- Monitors instruction against student performance and makes real-time adjustments.
- Assesses required skills.
- Encourages students to take academic risks.
- Makes sure students meet learning objectives while increasing mastery levels.

STUDENTS:

- Monitor their level of engagement.
 - Confer with the teacher to achieve learning targets.
- Initiate activities to: Address their learning strengths and next steps. Take academic risks.

Element c:

THE TEACHER:

- Incorporates evidence-based strategies into lessons.
- Makes connections between student data and research-based practices.
- Individualizes instructional approach to meet unique needs of each student.

STUDENTS:

- Embrace new and unique ways of learning as they are introduced through research-based lessons.
- Apply skills and knowledge learned in the classroom.

Element d:

THE TEACHER:

- Uses available technology to facilitate classroom instruction.
- Employs strategies and procedures to ensure that all students have equitable access to available technology.
- Monitors the use of available technology in the classroom.

Uses available technology to: Enhance student learning. Develop students' knowledge and skills. Enhance creative and innovative skills. Provide engaging and motivating learning experiences.

STUDENTS:

- Engage in virtual or face-to-face learning activities enhanced by appropriate use of available technology.
 - Produce creative and innovative products.
- Use available technology to: Accelerate their learning. Apply team building and networking skills. Deepen critical thinking skills.
- Communicate effectively.

Disclaimer: This tool can be used to gather information during observations (formal, informal, and walk-throughs) in conjunction with the Rubric for Evaluating Colorado's Teachers. This tool, by itself, is not to be considered an evaluation.

Element e:

THE TEACHER:

- Has high expectations for all students.
- Holds students accountable for their learning.
- Sets student expectations at a level that challenges students.
- Incorporates critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Challenges all students to learn to their greatest ability.
- Explicitly teaches higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Ensures that students perform at levels meeting or exceeding expectations.

STUDENTS:

- Help set their learning objectives.
- Apply higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills to address challenging issues.
- Monitor their progress toward achieving teacher's high expectations.
- Seek opportunities to test their problem-solving and higher-order skills.

Element f:

THE TEACHER:

- Includes all students in individual and group activities.

Plans lessons that: Provide opportunities for students to participate using various roles and modes of communication.

- Flexibly groups students.
- Adjusts team composition based on lesson objectives and student needs.
- Varies group size, composition, and tasks to create opportunities for students to learn from each other.

STUDENTS:

- Fulfill their assigned roles within the team.
- Assume leadership roles in their teams.
- Utilize group processes to build trust and promote effective interactions among team members.
- Participate in teams in ways that build trust and ownership of ideas among team members.

Element g:

THE TEACHER:

- Communicates effectively with students.
- Models effective communication skills.
- Encourages students to communicate effectively.
- Teaches students to be effective communicators.
- Provides opportunities for students to practice communication skills.

STUDENTS:

- Apply effective written and oral communication skills in their work.
- Use academic language in spoken and written work.

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Element h:

THE TEACHER:

- Involves students in monitoring their learning.
- Assesses learning outcomes appropriately.
- Uses a variety of assessment methods.
- Provides actionable, timely, specific and individualized feedback about the quality of student work.
- Teaches students to use feedback to improve their learning.

STUDENTS:

- Self-assess on a variety of skills and concepts.
- Articulate their personal strengths and needs based on self-assessment.
- Effectively use formal and informal feedback to monitor their learning.

Assume ownership for: Monitoring their progress. Setting learning goals. Applying teacher feedback to improve performance and accelerate their learning.

Comments:

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